Amendments to the Claims:
Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for characterizing a test subject's risk of developing or having atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, comprising:

determining levels of myeloperoxidase (MPO) activity, myeloperoxidase (MPO) mass, or both in a bodily sample from the test subject, said bodily sample being blood, serum, plasma, circulating leukocytes or any combination thereof,

wherein elevated levels of MPO activity or MPO mass or both in the bodily sample of the test subject as compared to at least one predetermined value based on levels of MPO activity, MPO mass or both, respectively, in comparable bodily samples obtained from a population of control subjects indicates that the test subject is at risk of developing or having atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

2. (withdrawn/previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the level of myeloperoxidase activity in one or more populations of circulating leukocytes in the test subject's blood is determined by an assay which employs a peroxidase substrate and flow cytometry.

3. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined value is a single normalized value or a range of normalized values and is based on the MPO activity levels in comparable bodily samples from the general population or a select population of subjects.

4. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined value is a single representative value or a range of representative values and is based on the MPO activity levels

in comparable bodily samples from the general population or a select population of control subjects.

5. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined value is a plurality of predetermined MPO activity level ranges that are based on the MPO activity levels in comparable bodily samples from the general population or a select population of control subjects.

6. (withdrawn/previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the bodily sample comprises circulating leukocytes selected from the group consisting of neutrophils, monocytes, mononuclear lymphocytes, sub-populations of neutrophils, sub-populations of neutrophils, sub-populations of monocytes, and sub-populations of mononuclear lymphocytes, or any combination thereof.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the levels of myeloperoxidasé mass in the test subject's bodily sample is determined by an immunological technique.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined values is a single normalized value or a range of normalized values and is based upon the MPO mass levels in comparable bodily samples from the general population or a select population of control subjects.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined value is a single representative value or a range of representative values and is based upon the MPO mass levels in comparable bodily samples from the general population or a select population of control subjects.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined value is a plurality of predetermined MPO mass level ranges which are based on the MPO mass levels in comparable bodily samples from the general population or a select population of control subjects.

11-22 canceled

23. (currently amended) A method of assessing a test subject's risk of developing or having atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, comprising

comparing levels of myeloperoxidase in blood, serum, plasma, circulating leukocytes, or any combination thereof from the test subject with levels of myeloperoxidase in blood, serum, plasma, circulating leukocytes or any combination thereof from a population of control subjects; ~~and~~

wherein the ~~difference between the~~ levels of myeloperoxidase in blood, serum, plasma, circulating leukocytes, or any combination thereof from the test subject ~~and~~ relative to the levels of myeloperoxidase in blood, serum, plasma, circulating leukocytes or any combination thereof from the population of control subjects is indicative of the extent of the test subject's risk of developing or having atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

24. canceled.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the test subject is a non-

diabetic, non-hypertensive, non-smoker.

26. (currently amended) A method of assessing a test subject's risk of ~~experiencing an acute adverse~~ developing a complication of atherosclerotic cardiovascular ~~event~~ disease comprising:

determining levels of myeloperoxidase (MPO) activity, myeloperoxidase (MPO) mass, or both in blood, serum, plasma, circulating leukocytes or any combination thereof from the test subject;

wherein elevated levels of MPO activity or MPO mass or both in blood, serum, plasma, circulating leukocytes or any combination thereof of the test subject as compared to levels of MPO activity, MPO mass, or both, respectively in blood, serum, plasma, circulating leukocytes or any combination thereof obtained from control subjects indicates that the test subject is at risk of ~~experiencing an acute adverse~~ developing a complication of atherosclerotic cardiovascular ~~event~~ disease.

27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the level of myeloperoxidase in one or more populations of circulating leukocytes in the test subject's blood is determined by an assay which involves exposing the circulating leukocytes to a peroxidase substrate and subjecting the substrate exposed circulating leukocytes to flow cytometry; and

wherein the level of myeloperoxidase in the test subject's one or more populations of circulating leukocytes is correlated with one or more flow cytometry parameters.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the test subject's risk of ~~experiencing an acute~~ developing a complication of atherosclerotic cardiovascular ~~event~~ disease is determined by comparing levels of myleperoxidase mass in the test subject's bodily sample to levels of myeloperoxidase mass in comparable samples obtained from a control population.

30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) A method for characterizing a test subject's risk of having atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, comprising:

determining levels of myeloperoxidase (MPO) activity, myeloperoxidase (MPO) mass, or both in a bodily sample from the test subject, wherein the bodily sample is blood, serum, or plasma, and

wherein elevated levels of MPO activity or MPO mass or both in the subject's bodily sample as compared to levels of MPO activity, MPO mass or both, respectively, in comparable bodily samples obtained from a population of control subjects indicates that the test subject is at risk of having atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the level of myeloperoxidase in one or more populations of the test subject's circulating leukocytes is determined by an assay which employs an antibody that binds to myeloperoxidase and flow cytometry.

33. (currently amended) A method of characterizing a test subject's risk of having atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease comprising:

determining levels of myeloperoxidase (MPO) activity, myeloperoxidase (MPO) mass, or both in a bodily sample from the test subject, said bodily sample being blood, serum, plasma, circulating leukocytes or any combination thereof;

wherein a test subject whose bodily sample contains levels of MPO activity or MPO mass or both that are higher than a control value based on levels of MPO activity, MPO mass or both, respectively, in comparable bodily samples obtained from a population of control subjects is at greater risk of having cardiovascular disease than a test subject whose bodily sample contains levels of MPO activity or MPO mass or both that are equal to or less than the control value.